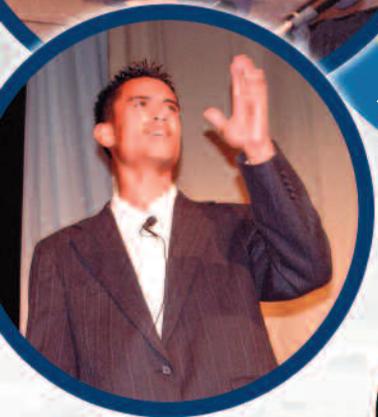


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ISLAND ECHOES

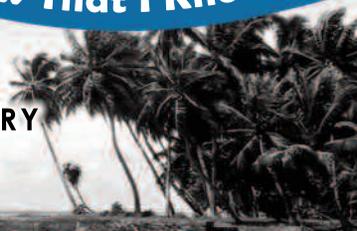
Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



I Know That I Know That I Know...



PACIFIC
MISSIONARY
AVIATION



I know... that I know... that I know!

by Sylvia Kalau

We thank God that our annual Easter program entitled, "I Know...that I Know... that I Know," was again a packed out musical blessing to the 60-member-choir that participated and the eager audience who came for the 5 days of repeated performances beginning on Easter Day. Two college students from the outer islands of Micronesia (Puluwat and Woleai), painted beautiful 16 ft. murals that graced our stage. Each painting depicting the cross on top of the island's well-known "Sokehs Rock", central to the scenery of our tropical island. We all know that Christ died for the sins of the world. In our picture the cross comes out of our island landmark and leans forward to illustrate God's personal love for the island people. I asked one of the artists, "How did you learn to paint with such a sense of color and detail growing up on an isolated Pacific atoll?", Romple replied, "Nobody has taught me how to draw and paint, God gave me this gift, I've always known how to do this."

The choir songs, solos, dances, and acting were all tied together with the theme... "Knowing God": what happens if you do and what happens if you don't. Year after year we develop programs that give our children and youth the opportunity to express their singing and acting talents. Many parents happily share that their children are growing in self-confidence and eagerness to be at church. As they sing the catchy melodies of the Easter songs, the powerful words of God's grace and love stick to their very hearts and souls and continue to play back in their minds. With all the trash bombarding our young people today, we believe that the church is the best place for them to express their faith in creative ways as we echo with confidence what we know to be true from God's Word.

It is indeed amazing what God can do when we step out in faith, believe Him for the challenge, give Him our creative minds and able bodies to communicate in drama, music and art, the wonderful Gospel love story.

And just in case you are wondering what it is that I know... that I know?
"I know... that only the Lord is God. He is Risen indeed!"

**Center Page Poster
Celebrating Easter in Pohnpei**

**Australian,
Pohnpeian and
African actors
grace our stage.**



**Come, Now Is The Time To Worship...
A praise hula dance.**



**These young men love to act so much that
they've asked us to reserve an acting spot for
them in every future program.**



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Cover Pictures
Easter Celebration in Pohnpei
Story on page 2.

Editors
Melinda Espinosa
Sylvia Kalau
Barbara Pace

Layout
Roland Weibel

Pacific Missionary Aviation
P.O. Box 3209
Hagatna, Guam 96932
Phone: (671) 646-6464
Fax: (671) 649-6066
guam@pmapacific.org
<http://www.pmapacific.org>

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New Life in Christ

by Ditas F. Go-Zurbano, PMF Palau Member

“Because He lives, we can face tomorrow... Because He lives, all fear is gone...” The song reverberated in the air as the PMF Palau congregation sang. It was Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007, and out in the open sea fronting the PMA multi-purpose building, six young Palauan men, ages 13 - 21, waited to follow the Lord’s example by being baptized in the sea as Pastor Bambit Balayo gave them final instructions.



Baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Then, one by one, Stallone; Blaize, Rino, Steven, Leeman, and Prescott, dressed in white robes, were immersed in the water, symbolizing the washing away of their sins, being dead to sin, and then raised up again, symbolizing their new life in Christ.

“Baptism” said Pastor Bambit, “is a holy ordinance appointed by Christ as a rite of passage into fellowship of the redeemed community, His church. Jesus Christ spoke to His disciples, commissioning them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” - Matthew 28:18-20

He encouraged the newly baptized and the other members of the congregation to always remember their baptism, and what it represents. He urged the young men, “I invite you to remember God’s promise on your baptism today, to turn away from evil, and to reaffirm your loyalty to Jesus Christ and your commitment to His body, the Church.”

“It was my decision to follow Christ,” says Stallone. He was baptized together with brothers Blaize and Steven. He said, “I knew about Christ since I was in the fifth grade, but I wasn’t sure He was real. After attending several PMF Worship services, I felt the oneness in Spirit of this congregation. And their kindness showed me a tangible picture of Christ.

After giving my life to the Lord, baptism was the next step. It has brought me closer to God.”

Leeman, an active member of PMF’s Youth Group, remarked, “I decided to be baptized because I wanted to follow Christ. I wanted to have a changed life.” Leeman found the Lord a long time ago, he said, “But somewhere along the way, I got lost.” He’s thankful to God that he met Romy Maido, a member of our church, who led him back to the Lord. “I’m beginning to obey God again and have turned away from the wrong things I used to do. I’m still learning more.” Leeman shared.

Although baptism cannot save a person, it is a command by the Lord Jesus to demonstrate our spiritual birth, and to confirm our single devotion to Jesus Christ as Lord. Our PMA family in Palau warmly welcomes Stallone, Leeman, Blaize, Steven, Rino and Prescott into the family of God. We pray for each one as they begin a new chapter in their lives in Christ!



Pastor Bambit has a heart for discipling young men and has led the ministry in Palau for 5 years.

Newly baptized members joyfully greet us at the oceanfront.



YAP

Snapshots of God's Faithfulness

by Molly Davis, wife of Missionary Pilot, Yap, Micronesia



The Davis Family arrives in Yap.

When I look at the calendar, I can't believe it's only been six weeks since our family first stepped off Continental Micronesia's 737 here on Yap. Meaningful impressions from the last six weeks are seared on our hearts forever.

One of these unforgettable experiences was Easter Sunday. Pastor John Malimai and his family had worked

diligently to prepare a perfect Easter Sunrise Service. All of us arrived in the dark, in the early morning stillness, and sat on the ground under the star-studded sky. The outer islanders' worship was beautiful, as always, with a few English songs mixed in with songs in their own language. Dawn came on so gradually that it went unnoticed as the youth presented a powerful skit about the importance of having our names written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Just before Pastor John delivered his sermon, the morning sky opened up, and those who hadn't run to the nearest shelter, PMA's airplane hangar, were drenched! We gathered to sit under and around the airplanes. John stood in the entrance of the hangar, a brilliant rainbow behind him. He told us that, just as we were sitting under the wings of the airplanes that morning, we also always have a place of shelter under the protective wings of our Heavenly Father. I will never forget the picture of John dressed in his green *thuu* - the local men's loin cloth - blowing in the wind quietly talking about the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. His years of planting seeds with the outer islanders here on Yap showed a beautiful harvest that memorable Easter morning.



**Pastor John preaching in PMA's hangar on this Easter Sunday morning...
...with a rainbow in the background - a symbol of God's promise.**

Vince was impacted by another scene: A young outer-island woman reading a New Testament that PMA keeps in the seat pockets of the airplanes.

Peter Reichert, noticing this, invited her to take the Bible home. Who can say how the Scripture may speak to this young woman simply because she rode on our airplane that day?

Another picture: Three young men from different cultures - Yapese, Filipino and German - working together, all day every day in the heat and humidity of Yap, to keep PMA's hangar and airplanes well-maintained and spotless. The harmony that exists among the PMA team is a testimony to God's grace and the faithfulness in Peter and Esther Reichert's lives in Yap for the past fifteen years.

One last image comes to mind: A young man transported by PMA airplane to Yap due to severe abdominal pain. Once our plane landed, the young man was rushed to the hospital where emergency surgery was performed on his ruptured appendix. At the same time, Pastor John spoke with his family at the hangar in their language, assuring them that everything would be done to help their son. We're thankful to God for PMA's promptness and efficiency to fly this young man from Wolcui to Yap, and for John, who gave his time to minister to this hurting family in their time of crisis.

Will tedious hours in the hangar, polishing and maintaining airplanes, make a difference in the kingdom of God? What about transporting people back and forth between islands a few times a week. Is that furthering the Gospel's impact? Will transporting cargo to an outer island - everything from baby pigs and roosters to washing machines and birthday cakes - really make a difference for the kingdom of God? Will transporting a seriously ill person to get urgently-needed medical care really make any impact?

The scenes we have just described and many other "snapshots" Vince and I have "taken" in these last six weeks overwhelmingly answer these questions: Yes, a thousand times, Yes! In Philippians 2:1-7, Paul shares: "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."



Outer-Islanders Bernard, Isaac, Santiago, Augustine and Ignacio meeting with Pastor John for Bible study.

Amy Carmichael once remarked, "You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." We see our PMA team in Yap showing Jesus' love, many times in the most practical ways, to the beautiful people of Yap and the Outer Islands.



“I Know that I Know that I Know...

...that only the Lord is God!”

Not by Might nor by Power, but by His Spirit

by Malcolm Cleope, PMA Philippines OIC/Pilot

You may remember Charles & Stephanie Wright from an Island Echoes publication two years ago. They've been visiting our missionaries in the Philippines for the past three years. Their home is in Iowa which is quite a long distance from the hidden-away

Polilio Islands! Each year, Charles and Stephanie complete the trek around the Polilio Islands, journeying from the islands of Jomalig to Kilogan to Calutcot to Patnanungan, then to Katakian. They endure blazing sun, salt water, high humidity, and mud. Yet no matter what the circumstances or conditions, Charles is always ready to share God's Word in these

remote islands. During the Wright's first trip in 2005 our ministry on Calutcot began. Charles, affectionately known as the "preacher from Iowa," was the first non-Filipino pastor to preach to this eager, growing congregation.



Charles & Stephanie Wright travelling by an outrigger canoe from Jomalig to Kilogan.

Our First Day

We were scheduled to take our Cessna C-182, but its radio died, so we quickly switched to our twin-engine Islander. The Islander was low on fuel, so our flight took off an hour later. Unseasonably poor weather hovered along the mountains on our flight to Jomalig. On our way, we climbed to 10,000 feet to stay above the weather. We threaded our way through a stack of menacing nimbus clouds. Overall, the flight turned out to be pleasant, but it took us an extra 15 - 20 minutes.

We landed in Jomalig and immediately headed to the boat. While climbing onto the boat, I slipped and fell in the water. I've climbed in the boat hundreds of times, but somehow today was the day to slip. Things did not seem to be working our way: first bad weather, then an airplane with a dead radio, and now, me ending up in the water. What else would go wrong? Were we being prevented from going to the islands? Was Satan throwing in frustration to this scenario? Finally, after 6 hours, we arrived on Calutcot. In spite of the difficulties, a warm, jubilant group of God's people welcomed us. As a part of their hospitality, we were served a scrumptious seafood lunch, complete with fish, crabs, and lobsters.

The Wrights Return!

People were eager to talk with Charles & Stephanie. With a festive atmosphere about us, we chatted about the possibility of building an airstrip on Calutcot. After lunch, over thirty of us gathered at our small, makeshift church. Charles preached on Zechariah 4:6. "So he said to



Charles & Stephanie Wright from Iowa visit our island ministry in the Philippines each year.

me, this is the Word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.'" God had brought us to a far-reaching isle in the middle of the Pacific. Our congregation was encouraged about the church, and we reminisced about the recent medical outreach in January. Now, true to what had been preached today, we remembered the Lord's goodness and His Spirit at work on Calutcot. In closing, Charles offered a prayer asking the Lord to bless the islanders and the church.

On To Patnanungan

After another two-hour boat trip, we disembarked at Patnanungan. Despite a tiring trip, Charles & Stephanie were primed for leading devotions with the young people. Charles talked about "holiness and purity" and saving oneself for marriage. He challenged each one to keep themselves pure until their wedding day. The youth who gathered found the topic extremely interesting and easily saw how it could impact their lives as witnesses for the Lord. We ended the time with songs and prayers for our youth. The Lord gave us a pleasant relief that night, rain that cooled the air. Mercy (PMA Dorm mother and Learning Center Teacher) commented the next day, "It hadn't rained on Patnanungan for over two months till last night!" A gentle and welcomed blessing.



The village of Patnanungan seen from the air.



On Thursday: Naujan



After a day of rest on Thursday, we flew on to Naujan. We also brought along our aircraft mechanic trainees to see the place. Charles gave a short devotion while he held some of the babies in our nursery. Charles & Stephanie prayed individually for each one in the room: the staff, the babies, and the trainees. The couple also took time to care for the babies while I held meetings with the Orphanage staff members. We climbed onboard our plane again shortly after lunch.

Charles and Stephanie enjoy holding one of our orphan babies at the Naujan orphanage.

Medical Outreach On Jomalig

On our last day with Charles & Stephanie, they joined our medical outreach on Jomalig. They'd never seen this aspect of our ministry. Friday morning brought clouds along with a small storm moving across the area. Again we ascended to 8,000 feet to stay above the weather. We landed in Jomalig with no problem, boarded a small tractor with all of our supplies, and headed to the town's gymnasium. Charles & Stephanie had a quick course in taking blood pressure readings, reading prescriptions, and dispensing medicine. Our team was composed of four volunteer dentists from Manila, a medical doctor, Dr. John Escote, Charles, Stephanie, and me. Waiting for us were at least 120 patients.

As soon as we set up tables and medicines, everyone went to work. Initially, Charles & Stephanie may have felt a bit overwhelmed, trying to read prescriptions, answering many questions, and talking with the crowd. But by 11:00 AM, we'd already treated 130+ patients.



Medical outreach in Jomalig: Stephanie dispensing medicines with Malcolm assisting.

Once the outreach was completed, we'd treated over 120 dental patients, 29 eye patients, and over 30 medical patients. And statistically, we had treated an equal number of children, young adults, and senior citizens. We also saw patients with infections and hypertension. We had enough medicine and supplies to leave with the people, especially the heavily requested vitamins and antibiotics. I've often wondered why people come to our outreach rather than go to the small local clinic. Someone said, "Because you have the best medicines, and your doctors talk to us in a personal way."



Dr. John refracts an eye patient and fits him for glasses.

We were thankful for the volunteer dentists, the doctors, the Wrights, and our staff who demonstrated God's love to these people. Thankful, too, to the Wrights for their three years of faithfulness: sharing their time and resources to teach truths from the Bible. And our staff and congregations were left with a healthy dose of encouragement! This trip reminded me that, despite some adversity and some attacks by the enemy, the Lord is ever-present and remains in loving control of these ministries.

Outreach Team ready to board the PMA airplane, at Manila Domestic Airport.



Only by His Grace

by Ruth Fulguerinas, PMA Missionary

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.” - 1 Peter 4:11

After my training in Bible School in the Philippines, God immediately provided a place to serve Him: Pacific Missionary Aviation, Guam. PMA was not new to me, as I had served the year of 2002 as an intern with its church ministry, Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF). So it was with joy that I accepted a three-year term of service with PMA.

I looked forward to seeing many of the families I had become friends with earlier. I was especially eager to see the children who'd been a big part of my life during the internship. Their faith in God had been simple and real. Had they grown spiritually? Had they remained faithful to the Lord? What changes would I see in them when I returned to Guam?

It is a great joy and blessing to minister to these children and adults from many Micronesian islands, teaching the children about the good news of Christ's gift of salvation from sin. I always look forward to Saturdays and Sundays when I have the opportunity to talk, laugh, play and pray with these little ones. Seeing them grow in many areas of their lives - physically, in character, and in their faith with God - is a great encouragement. Indeed, it is good to see God at work in their lives.



Ruth with some of our Kids Club children.

Although some families come and go, due to the transient nature of island living, I trust the Lord that the time these children spend in Kids Klub, Sunday school, and other church meetings, learning about God - that these times will not be in vain. Many times the teachers and I have thought about the brevity of their time spent with us. We ask, “Will it make any difference in their lives?” But God reminds us to trust Him, to continue on, and to be faithful. By His grace, we will serve the people He's entrusted to us.

During a fellowship meeting, one mom told me, “Sometimes I've been so discouraged. I didn't want to come to church anymore. But my daughter kept urging me to come to church.” This mom started to attend church again regularly, only because she wanted her daughter to be happy. But, in the end, both mom and daughter received God's blessings. The faith of these little ones ministers to me in many ways. This reminds me of Jesus when He told His disciples, “I tell you the truth, unless you change to become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” - Matthew 18:3

God asks faithfulness on our part to teach and proclaim Him. And He will do amazing things in these children's lives. It's encouraging to see some children eager to learn to play musical instruments just because they want to serve in our church. I praise and thank God every time a young child believes and accepts Christ during one of our meetings. It's a blessing to see another young child come into the family of God.

One of the questions I've asked myself is “in whom and in what should I invest my life?” Serving God through PMA/PMF ministries has given me the opportunity to invest in many lives. It is true that “to teach is to touch a life forever”. What an eternal investment it is when we teach about Jesus. Pray with me that I may know Him more, and continue to grow in my relationship with Him, and will use whatever gifts He's given in service of others.

I especially love a verse from Scott Wesley Brown's song, “Grace Alone”: “Every soul we long to reach, Every heart we hope to teach. Everywhere we share His peace, Is only by His grace. Every loving word we say, Every tear we wipe away, Every sorrow turned to praise, Is only by His grace.” I've been learning to depend on the grace of God daily. And His grace is always sufficient. To God be the Glory!



Ruth was a true blessing to PMA's ministries in Guam, eager to serve, ready to help wherever and whatever needed.

Note from Melinda Espinosa, PMA Guam: Ruth reminds me of her namesake in the Bible, a woman of honor, integrity and faithfulness. She is a true servant of the Lord, faithful in little things as well as in great things, always desiring for God to be glorified in her life. She will indeed be missed by the PMF church here on Guam, especially the children and I. She is a special person and will always be dear to our hearts. She leaves Guam on a special mission to serve our PMF church in Palau. Their gain will be our loss. Ruth, we pray that God will make you a blessing in Palau as you have been to us. We love you.



Pacific Missionary Aviation
P.O. Box 3209
Hagatna, Guam 96932

info@pmapacific.org
www.pmapacific.org



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